ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SURVEY SUMMARY
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
FISCAL YEAR 1998-99

INTRODUCTION

The Institutions Program of the Environmental Management Branch (EMB) conducts annual environmental health surveys of the Developmental Centers operated by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). These surveys describe and document the environmental health and safety conditions within the Developmental Centers. The surveys also provide the management of DDS with an objective evaluation upon which administrative decisions can be based to assure a safe and healthy environment for residents and staff.

Other services, which can be provided to DDS when requested, include environmental health training, epidemiological studies, and special investigations.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES PROVIDED FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998-99

Five training sessions, each one-half hour in duration, were provided as part of the survey of the food services department at the Porterville Developmental Center. All of the main and serving kitchen staff participated. The training addressed the "flow charting" of cold potentially hazardous foods, such as potato and egg salad. The staff provided the recipe and processing information and EMB staff provided the guidance in developing the flow chart. "Critical Control Points", "Control Points", "Critical Limits", and "Corrective Actions" were identified on the flow chart. All staff participated with enthusiasm and should be commended for their willingness to learn.

A special evaluation of the medical laboratory operations was conducted at the Lanterman Developmental Center on June 30, 1998. This evaluation was conducted at the request of the Health and Safety Officer as a result of issues raised by the medical laboratory staff. Laboratory management also used the findings to prepare for an official licensing review and to verify compliance with the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998-99

TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste minimization programs have been implemented at all of the Developmental Centers in recent years. These efforts have resulted in a significant reduction in the number and variety of chemicals in use, as well as a reduction in the amount of hazardous waste generated. All of the Developmental Centers should continue this important program.

A private contract vendor disposes of all hazardous wastes from the Developmental Centers. At the Fairview Developmental Center a high volume of waste paints and miscellaneous chemicals were found to be stored in the hazardous waste building. A new hazardous waste disposal contract had recently been awarded and the removal of waste chemicals was expected within a few days of the completion of the survey.

Several polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) transformers were observed in the hazardous waste storage building at the Sonoma Developmental Center. The transformers were removed from use at the Developmental Center in 1986. Please be advised that the Federal Law (Toxic Substances Control Act) has very restrictive requirements regarding the storage and disposal of PCBs. This law requires that all PCB and PCB-Contaminated transformers must be dated when placed into storage for disposal and must be removed from storage and disposed of within one year. The facility used to store PCB and PCB-Contaminated transformers must also comply with specific storage requirements. We recommend that a high priority be placed on the removal and disposal of the transformers from the Developmental Center.

Improperly labeled containers of hazardous waste were noted at the Fairview Developmental Center, Lanterman Developmental Center and Sonoma Developmental Center. The hazardous waste containers should have labels affixed to the side of each container that indicates the contents of the container, the name of the generating institution, the institution's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) generator number and the start accumulation date. When the containers are emptied for disposal, new labels should be affixed to the containers.

The Fairview Developmental Center, Lanterman Developmental Center, Porterville Developmental Center and Sonoma Developmental Center are using liquid bleach in the residence laundry rooms. There are many hazards associated with the use of liquid bleach. It is recommended that a powdered laundry detergent with a bleach alternative additive be used rather than liquid bleach. These products provide similar results with a minimized risk to the user or for others that may come in contact with the chemical. If liquid bleach products continue to be used at these Developmental Centers, staff should be encouraged to use safety glasses when dispensing the bleach.

The print shop at Sonoma Developmental Center is now using soy-based printing inks but Fairview Developmental Center is still using rubber-based solvent inks in the operation of the shop. It is recommended that the use of the solvent inks be phased out in favor of the water-soluble soy-based inks that are used successfully by the commercial print shops. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has reported that the use of soy-based inks will reduce air contamination to the environment. It is recommended that staff enroll in one of the training courses conducted by the CARB and learn how to use the soy-based inks effectively during print shop operations.

ILLNESS AND INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM (IIPP)

During our surveys, we review the Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) plan for completeness and determine if the plan addresses all critical components. The required components of the IIPP include the Hazard Communication Program, the Bloodborne Pathogen Program, the Confined Space Program, the Lock-Out/Tag-Out Electrical Safety Program, and the Respiratory Protection Program. It is in the best interest of each Developmental Center to review all work practices and address all potentially hazardous activities in the IIPP.

An IIPP plan has been developed and implemented at each of the Developmental Centers. However, some of the plan elements are still not well understood by supervisors and staff. A hazard evaluation should be conducted at each work site and a Code of Safe Work Practices should be developed. The Code of Safe Practices should include the specific chemical, electrical, mechanical and/or biological safety hazards identified within each work area and for each work task. An on-going, documented training program should be implemented to ensure that all staff and client workers receive periodic training on safe work practices and the proper use of any required personal protective equipment. A copy of the IIPP plan should be readily available at each of the work areas within the Developmental Center.

Respirators were observed to be in use in several locations throughout the Developmental Centers. A section in the Code of Safe Practices should refer to respirator use for every job task that requires the use of a respirator. The training program on respirator use should include the following elements:

- Selecting and issuing respirators
- Training employees
- Conducting respirator face piece fit tests
- Conducting face piece seal fit checks
- Inspecting respirators
- Cleaning and sanitizing respirators
- Maintaining and repairing respirators
- Storing respirators
- Respirator limitations
- Medical surveillance

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) information was either missing or incomplete in several of the work areas at the Lanterman Developmental Center and Fairview Developmental Center. The missing MSDSs should be obtained and the binders should be reviewed periodically to verify that an MSDS for each chemical in the current inventory is included in the binder. For ease of recognition, MSDS binders throughout the institutions should be similar in appearance. To facilitate access to MSDS information during training and emergencies, it is recommended that the binders be provided with an indexing and tabbing system. It is also recommended that critical information such as product name, personal protection equipment and first aid procedures be highlighted for quick reference in the event of an emergency.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) was not available in several chemical usage areas at the Fairview Developmental Center and Lanterman Developmental Center. The MSDS for each chemical should be reviewed and all required PPE should be obtained and be readily available for staff use at each applicable work site. The PPE should be cleaned after every use, and should be stored in a manner that prevents contamination. Storing PPE in sealable plastic bags or covered plastic containers would be appropriate.

Pet birds, rabbits and rodents in cages were observed in several day treatment centers and school classrooms at the Fairview Developmental Center. Please be advised that communicable

diseases can sometimes be transmitted from these animals to humans. A written procedure should be developed for staff and clients who clean and disinfect the animal cages. Training on the procedure should be provided to all appropriate staff and clients.

Body fluid spill clean-up kits should be obtained for staff at the Porterville Developmental Center and Sonoma Developmental Center. The exposure of employees to blood-borne pathogens is often a major concern at the Developmental Centers. We recommend that all the blood-borne pathogen clean up kits be clearly labeled and stored in a readily accessible location at the Developmental Centers. The kits should be of uniform appearance and each kit should have the same contents. The kits should be routinely inventoried to make sure that all required safety and cleanup items are available and the contents should be listed on the outside of the kit. All staff should be trained regarding the use of the spill kits during an emergency.

The confined space safety programs at the Fairview Developmental Center and Lanterman Developmental Center are still in the process of implementation and development. The areas meeting the definition of confined spaces have been identified. Training on confined space entry is being provided to staff and the final implementation of the confined space programs should be completed in the near future. The confined space entry policies should be included in each of the Developmental Center's safety manuals.

Training on ergonomics awareness has been provided to staff at each of the Developmental Centers. We recommend that additional ergonomic strategies be applied to reduce future injuries and associated worker's compensation costs. As an example, we suggest that adjustable chairs and workstations be considered as the need for furniture replacement occurs. In addition, the staff assigned to install new computer systems should be thoroughly trained in the use of office ergonomics principles to "fit" the new equipment to the end user.

WATER

With the exception of the Sonoma and Porterville Developmental Centers, the domestic water supply to the Developmental Centers is provided by approved municipal water systems. The water systems in DDS facilities were well maintained and have been operating without any significant problems.

Comprehensive cross connection control programs are in place at each of the Developmental Centers. The annual testing of the cross connection control devices is conducted either by in-house staff or by private contractors. Documentation of the device testing was available at each of the Developmental Centers.

It was noted that gas chlorine is used to disinfect water at the Sonoma Developmental Center. The mechanical ventilation system and the hazards associated with handling gas chlorine represent a significant problem. At the time of the survey, the mechanical ventilation intake and exhaust vents for the chlorine treatment room were located at floor level on opposite sides of the room. As required by the California Building Code (CBC), the exhaust ventilation should be taken at a point at or near the floor level.

The system should be vented to the outside air and the point of discharge should be at least 10 feet away from any openable window and above the adjoining grade level. Fresh air intake directly linked with the outdoors should be located within six inches of the ceiling. The ventilation system should be modified to comply with the CBC. Consideration should be given to using liquid chlorine rather than gaseous chlorine to disinfect the water supply at the Center. As you are aware, chlorine gas is extremely dangerous. The use of liquid chlorine would provide a much safer working environment and would minimize the potential for an injury or accident from a chlorine leak.

SEWAGE

All of the Developmental Centers discharge wastewater to municipal treatment systems. Many of the Developmental Centers have a sewage grinder or bar screen as part of the wastewater system. Many of the problems that were identified during our surveys are related to the operation of sewage grinders and bar screen stations.

The leaking bar screen waste bin at the Sonoma Developmental Center should be replaced. It is strongly recommended that a heavy-duty plastic liner be placed inside the disposal bin to improve the maintenance and cleaning of the bin. This would reduce the accumulation of fecal matter on the sides of the bin, the accumulation of wastewater effluent on the ground under the bin and the attraction of flies and other vermin to the area. Measures should be taken to reduce the quantity of fecal matter captured and raked by the automatic bar screen. To eliminate fly breeding and odors, it is also recommended that a dewatering screw compactor be installed and/or the waste be sealed into plastic bags before being placed into the bins.

The Porterville Developmental Center grinds the wastewater solids prior to discharge to the municipal system. It is recommended that a second grinder be installed as a backup in the event of a primary grinder failure.

If the sewage grinder at the Agnews Developmental Center is unable to handle the volume of wastewater, the effluent is directed to a bar screen. The situation may cause a maintenance problem, as bar screens often require frequent cleaning. We suggest that a supplemental grinder be added for wastewater treatment. This will eliminate the need for frequent cleaning of the bar screen and limit staff contact with raw sewage.

SOLID WASTE

We review the solid waste systems at the Developmental Centers from the point of generation to disposal. This is to ensure that all wastes are disposed of through the appropriate waste stream and that refuse containers and storage areas are maintained in a manner not to create a nuisance or attract vermin.

With the exception of the Lanterman Developmental Center, the interior of the refuse disposal containers at all of the Developmental Centers was clean and the lids on the refuse containers were kept closed when not in use. The lids on several of the refuse containers throughout the Lanterman Developmental Center were found open or uncovered. This was a

particular problem behind the acute building. The lids on the refuse containers should be closed after each use to minimize odors and to eliminate vermin breeding and harborage areas.

The Medical Laboratory at Sonoma Developmental Center was autoclaving medical waste and disposing of it in the regular solid waste stream. Treatment of medical waste is allowed in this manner provided that the facility is overseen by and has been issued an onsite treatment permit by the local enforcement agency. Staff was advised to contact the enforcement agency, Sonoma County Environmental Health, for additional information and to obtain a treatment permit.

A significant volume of solid waste in the form of adult diapers was noted in the biohazard containers in the Acute Building at the Sonoma Developmental Center. Items simply soiled with urine or feces are not considered biohazardous unless the material is contaminated with liquid blood or a transmittable infectious disease. The practice is an inordinately costly way to dispose of solid waste items and suggests poor understanding of the definition of medical waste. Policy regarding medical waste disposal should be reviewed, staff should be trained, and disposal practices monitored for compliance. Department staff are available to provide educational presentations regarding proper disposal and waste minimization at your request.

Recycling projects are conducted at various areas of the campus at the Fairview Developmental Center. It is recommended that a central collection area be designated for the storage of recycled materials prior to removal from the facility.

Cardboard is collected in a tall refuse bin at the Recycling Center prior to removal from Lanterman Developmental Center. Staff must climb a ladder to manually empty cardboard from small collection containers into the larger bin. It is recommended that a taller, platform ladder be provided to replace the short, conventional ladder currently in use. This modification to the process will improve safety and minimize the risk of back injury to staff and clients.

A large accumulation of cardboard was found on the ground in the Recycling Center at the Sonoma Developmental Center. The cardboard should be compacted and baled on a more frequent schedule.

SWIMMING POOLS

The swimming pools are evaluated for structural integrity, water quality, sanitation, routine maintenance and safety aspects of pool operation. All of the Developmental Centers, with the exception of the Agnews Developmental Center have one or more swimming pools for client use.

According to staff at the Developmental Centers, "fecal accidents" are a common occurrence in the swimming pools. Due to the high potential for disease transmission as a result of fecal accidents, it is recommended that a written policy be developed that describes the procedure for pool closure when such accidents occur. Staff who work with clients in the pool should be trained on the closure procedure.

The deck around the pool at the Fairview Developmental Center was littered with fecal material from wild ducks. It is recommended that the pool be covered as one measure to exclude the ducks from the water and deck.

A review of the operational records for the pool at the Lanterman Developmental Center indicated that the free chlorine residual in the pool frequently was in the range of 0.4 – 0.8 ppm during the hot summer months. To adequately disinfect the pool water, the free chlorine residual should be a minimum of 1.5 ppm when the pool is in use. The automatic chlorine feed system should be adjusted to increase the chlorine concentration in the pool and staff should monitor the chlorine residual several times a day during periods of high pool usage and during warm weather. During the months that the pool is not in use, the pool chemistry should be monitored at least once a week.

The pool operational records at the Fairview Developmental Center included the documentation of the pool "total" chlorine concentration and the pH of the pool water. The "free" chlorine residual should also be monitored and documented.

The automatic chlorine erosion feeders have been removed from service at two of the pools at the Sonoma Developmental Center. The pool water receives primary disinfection treatment by ozonation. This treatment is supplemented by the use of floating bromine tablet dispensers. An automatic disinfection system that meets the requirements of the California Building Code should be installed for each swimming pool. The automatic disinfection system selected must allow for a disinfectant chemical residual to be maintained in the pool water during all hours of pool operation. The floating bromine dispenser is not an approved disinfection system and should be discontinued.

FOOD SERVICES

In general, the level of maintenance, housekeeping, and operation in the kitchens continues to be very good. However, we recommend that a fully operational Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) program be established and maintained at the Developmental Centers. We have found significant differences in the operations of the HACCP program in the Developmental Centers. We are available to provide assistance, guidance, and training to ensure that all Developmental Centers have a fully operational and documented HACCP program.

All Developmental Centers will continue to be evaluated to verify that sufficient food processing, storage, and transportation equipment is available and to ensure that all equipment is being maintained and used in accordance with the manufacturer design specifications.

MAIN KITCHENS

Since the last survey several major improvements in structural and equipment maintenance have been made at the Lanterman Developmental Center. Most of the walk-in refrigeration and freezer units have been completely renovated. Previously damaged floors, walls and ceilings have been repaired throughout the kitchen. A new walk-in freezer was in the

process of being installed at the time of the survey. This will alleviate the overcrowding of freezers that has been noted on survey reports for the past several years. We applaud these accomplishments and encourage the development of an on-going preventative maintenance program.

The freezers at the Fairview Developmental Center were extremely overcrowded during the survey. However, staff reported that effective April 1, 1999, the "prime vendor" program would be implemented at this facility. Instead of quarterly deliveries of frozen food items, the deliveries will be scheduled more frequently. It is expected that this change in delivery frequency will ease the overcrowding problem.

Live steam from the boiler plant is used as the heat source for the steamer units in the kitchens at the Agnews Developmental Center and Fairview Developmental Center. The steam should be analyzed to verify that the chemical additive concentrations in the steam make-up water do not exceed the Food and Drug Administration threshold specified in the MSDS.

The operational records for the older blast chiller unit in the kitchen at the Lanterman Developmental Center indicated chronic equipment breakdown. Due to the age of the unit, the difficulty in obtaining replacement parts and the logistical difficulties placed on staff when the equipment is not working, consideration should be given to the purchase of a replacement blast chiller.

The ice machines in the kitchens at the Fairview Developmental Center and Lanterman Developmental Center should be emptied, cleaned and sanitized at least once a month to remove mold, slime and hard water deposits from the interior surfaces.

The freezer doors at the Agnews Developmental Center should be provided with emergency door latch releases to prevent staff from being trapped inside.

There was inadequate lighting inside several of the freezers at the Agnews Developmental Center and Sonoma Developmental Center. The intensity of light should be increased to a minimum of ten foot-candles of illumination, measured at a point three feet above floor level.

The drain lines for the food preparation sinks at the Lanterman Developmental Center are directly connected to the sanitary sewer. Indirect connections using air gaps should be installed on the waste lines to prevent sewage from backing up into the food preparation sinks.

Food transport carts and blast chill racks are washed outside the main kitchen at the Fairview Developmental Center. The cart wash effluent drains on the grass and into the storm drain. There is minimal space inside the scullery area to wash the carts inside. The construction of a cart wash area within or adjacent to the kitchen should be considered. The cart wash area should drain to the sanitary sewer.

SERVING KITCHENS

The majority of the serving kitchens at the Developmental Centers were clean and well maintained. Essential equipment was in good working order at the time of the survey. The equipment operational records were readily available and appeared complete and accurate. Those responsible should be commended for their efforts.

More consistent and accurate documentation of food temperatures should be initiated in the serving kitchens at the Lanterman Developmental Center and Sonoma Developmental Center. Food temperatures should be monitored and recorded on the log sheets immediately after the food pans are removed from the carts. The temperature log sheets should be expanded to include the dietary supplements (i.e., puddings). In addition, the time when the temperatures are taken should be recorded on the log sheets. When the temperature of any potentially hazardous food is more than 41°F at the time of delivery, the Supervisor should be notified so corrective actions can be initiated. Supervisory staff should also review the daily food temperature and equipment monitoring records to evaluate the need for additional staff training and equipment maintenance needs.

The rethermalizing ovens in the serving kitchens at the Agnews Developmental Center generate a high amount of heat. The ventilation hoods provided for the rethermalizing ovens should be evaluated and modified to allow for the efficient removal of excessive heat, smoke, gasses and vapors.

Improved and more frequent cleaning procedures should be initiated in the dining rooms at the Porterville Developmental Center to eliminate the accumulation of food debris and rodent droppings. The pest control operator should intensify the rodent baiting and trapping activities in the dining rooms. The daily inspection of the dining room furniture for evidence of cockroaches and rodents should continue to determine whether the control measures are effective.

Microwave ovens have been installed on the shelves in some dining rooms at the Porterville Developmental Center. All microwave ovens should be cleaned after every meal to prevent the accumulation of food debris on the interior surfaces. Food debris that accumulates on the interior of the microwave oven eventually turns to carbon after repeated use. The carbonized food can cause “arcing” on the interior surfaces, which results in “burned” or “pitted” surfaces or melted plastic components in the microwave oven. Daily cleaning is essential to maintain the microwave ovens and ensure safe operation.

Staff reported that acid is added to the dishmachine every other day in the Program 5 kitchen at the Fairview Developmental Center to remove hard mineral deposits from the interior of the machine. The acid is caustic, expensive and can be hazardous to the user if not handled properly. If it is determined that the water supplied to the kitchen is indeed “hard” enough to require the frequent use of the acid product, it is recommended that the installation of a water softening device be considered for this kitchen.

CAFETERIAS/CANTEENS

Clients, staff and foster grandparents are regular customers in the canteen at the Agnews Developmental Center. The food safety practices in the canteen should be the same as the main kitchen. It was noted during this and previous surveys that the food handling practices are greatly compromised. There are inadequate final cooking temperatures, inadequate hot food holding temperatures and inadequate sanitizing procedures. The staff of the main kitchen should supervise the operations in the canteen to make sure that the highest levels of food safety are met.

Cleaning chemicals should be stored separately from food and paper products in the food preparation areas at the Lanterman Developmental Center to reduce the potential for cross contamination. All unused equipment should be removed from the kitchens to effectively use the limited storage space.

A thermometer should be provided for each refrigerator in the canteen at the Lanterman Developmental Center. The ambient air temperatures inside the units should be monitored and logged at least once a day to verify that refrigeration and freezer units are operating within the required temperature ranges.

All spilled food products from vending machines should be removed immediately to prevent the attraction of cockroaches and other vermin. As an example, spilled syrup was noted in the bottom of the soft drink vending machine in the RT Basement Canteen at the Fairview Developmental Center.

The individual responsible for cleaning and stocking the vending machines at the Fairview Developmental Center was observed during the survey. The individual stocked the canned soft drink and packaged snack machines first, followed by the milk and perishable food items. Milk and other potentially hazardous food items should be placed in the refrigerated vending machines first and then followed by the non-perishable items.

Preparation for the renovation and expansion of the Blue Heron Café at the Porterville Developmental Center is underway. Staff indicated that the renovation of the facility would result in the relocation of the preparation area to a different area in the building. We are available to review the architectural plans and equipment schedules to ensure that the renovated facility will be constructed in accordance with applicable regulations.

Evidence of rodents was observed in the merchandise display area at the Porterville Developmental Center. The pest control operator should intensify the baiting and/or trapping activities in the display and preparation areas. The holes in the walls beneath the sink should be sealed to prevent rodent access and eliminate a harborage. All areas should be cleaned to remove all rodent evidence, and the areas should be monitored to determine the effectiveness of the control program.

WAREHOUSES

In general, housekeeping, maintenance and organization in the warehouses at all of the Developmental Centers continue to be very good.

A mobile ladder stand should be used to retrieve cased or individual items from shelves located above shoulder height at the Porterville Developmental Center. Stepladders should not be used for this purpose due to the lack of handrails to stabilize the worker's descent.

The seismic retrofit of the food warehouse building at the Lanterman Developmental Center has been completed. As a result of the construction there was a considerable dust and dirt accumulation around the perimeter of the warehouse area. It is recommended that the perimeter white floor stripe be cleaned and/or repainted for ease of detection of vermin in the warehouse.

Propane fuel containers were stored inside the support warehouse at the Lanterman Developmental Center. The containers should be moved to a secured and well-ventilated exterior storage area.

Refrigerated medication is received at the support warehouse at the Lanterman Developmental Center. The medications are stored in a refrigerator prior to pickup by the medical staff. The staff stores food containers in the medication refrigerator. Food items and medication should be stored in separate refrigerators to eliminate the potential for cross contamination.

The fire extinguishers in the warehouses at the Fairview Developmental Center and Sonoma Developmental Center were either discharged or had out of date service tags. All fire extinguishers should be serviced annually and should be inspected routinely to ensure that the devices are operational in the event of an emergency.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The flow of contaminated materials through the central supply rooms at the Agnews Developmental Center creates a potential for the cross contamination of sterilized equipment. The flow of contaminated materials through the processing procedures in central supply could be modified to minimize the potential for cross contamination. With some structural modifications, the contaminated materials could be received and processed near the autoclave. The sterilized items could then be transported to the clean area where there would be no potential contact with contaminated materials.

The air circulation between the "clean" and "dirty" areas in the Central Supply room at the Fairview Developmental Center creates the potential for cross contamination between the two areas. Room air vents draw air from the contaminated area of Central Supply into the sterile area, allowing airborne bacteria and viruses to settle on sterile supplies. As a temporary measure, the door between the center room and the sterile room should be kept closed when not in use. Consideration should be given to renovating the area to ensure the maintenance and

integrity of the clean and sterile areas. Ideally, the sterile room should be moved to a more remote area.

Independent contractors are responsible for the disposal of the used x-ray developing chemicals at the Lanterman Developmental Center. The containers of waste chemical were not properly labeled and the waste tracking documents were not being filled out on a routine basis at the time of chemical disposal. The label on the chemical container should specify the name of the institution, the institution's Environmental Protection Agency generation number, the contents of the container and the start accumulation date. X-ray staff on duty at the time of chemical disposal should verify that the contractor affixes new labels to the empty containers, fills in the required information on the new label and enters the appropriate information in the logbook as required by state law.

Plastic bags are used to contain spills from the urine specimen jars at the Lanterman Developmental Center. Since the bags are marked with a biohazard symbol, they should be disposed of in the red medical waste bags. Urine specimen jars are not biohazardous waste and consideration should be given to using un-marked plastic bags for this purpose. This change in procedure will permit the bags to be disposed of in the regular refuse stream.

The contract janitorial staff at the Lanterman Developmental Center collects medical waste from the treatment rooms and transports it to the main medical waste storage area. To minimize the potential for staff and client exposure to medical waste, the red bags should be placed in rigid leak resistant containers during transport. In addition, the transport containers should be marked with the biohazard symbol for ease of recognition and safe handling.

It was noted that out-dated pharmaceuticals were stored in red biohazard bags in the pharmacy at the Porterville Developmental Center. The Medical Waste Management Act requires that pharmaceutical wastes be placed in a container or secondary container that is labeled with the words "incinerate only."

At least one emergency eyewash unit should be installed in the medical laboratory at the Lanterman Developmental Center for quick access in the event of a chemical exposure. Many of the chemicals used as reagents in the laboratory are hazardous.

LAUNDRY

Most of the soiled laundry is sorted in the residential housing units at each of the Developmental Centers and is processed at the Prison Industry Authority (PIA) laundries located at nearby correctional institutions. We are responsible for reviewing the operations of all PIA laundries as part of our surveys of the correctional facilities.

The laundry buildings at each of the Developmental Centers serve primarily as a shipping and receiving facility for the Center. Carts of sorted, soiled laundry are loaded on the transport trucks and are delivered directly to the PIA laundries. Clean carts and laundry are returned to the Developmental Centers for sorting and distribution. The clean carts are then sent to the residences to be used for soiled laundry items.

In the housing units at some of the Developmental Centers, domestic clothes washers and dryers have been installed for client use. We have expressed our concerns regarding the use of liquid bleach products in the residence laundry rooms in the "Toxic Substances and Hazardous Waste Management" section of this report. It is recommended that a powdered laundry detergent with a bleach alternative additive be used rather than liquid bleach. These products provide similar results with a minimized risk to the user or for others that may come in contact with the chemical. If liquid bleach products continue to be used at these Developmental Centers, staff should be encouraged to use safety glasses when dispensing the bleach. Otherwise, no significant deficiencies were noted in the handling and processing of soiled and clean laundry at any of the Developmental Centers this year.

VECTOR CONTROL

A large population of feral cats was observed at the Agnews Developmental Center. Since feral cats can transmit rabies, fleaborne diseases and internal parasites, they may be considered a potential health hazard if the populations are not kept in control. Fly populations may be enhanced by the overabundance of the cat feces. It is recommended that trapping, relocation or sterilization programs be established to minimize the cat populations. Staff should be discouraged from feeding or providing shelter to the cats.

Rodent activity was observed in the Fashion Center storeroom at the Fairview Developmental Center, the Camp Via kitchen and the hazardous waste storage building at the Sonoma Developmental Center. The rodent droppings should be removed and rodent extermination activities should be initiated. The vector control officer should be notified whenever evidence of rodent infestation and activity is observed, so that control measures can be intensified.

As mentioned earlier in this report, there was an accumulation of duck fecal material on the deck inside the pool enclosure at the Fairview Developmental Center. Efforts to prevent the ducks from entering the pool area should be initiated. In addition, it is strongly recommended that staff and clients be discouraged from feeding birds and other wild animals on the campus.

No evidence of cockroach, rodent or fly control problems were observed at the time of the survey at the Lanterman Developmental Center. Those responsible should be commended for their efforts.

HOUSING

The housekeeping, organization and maintenance in the housing units at the Developmental Centers continue to be very good. The Bloodborne pathogen and hazard communication programs were evaluated by asking the staff to explain their understanding of the requirements.

The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) were not readily available for some chemicals available in the housing units at the Fairview Developmental Center and Lanterman

Developmental Center. A complete inventory of all the chemicals used or stored in each housing unit should be prepared, including the contract janitorial products, the laundry chemicals, the kitchen chemicals and the craft products. A comprehensive MSDS binder should be available in each Program office and should include an MSDS for all cleaning, grooming, laundry and craft supplies used and stored in the living units assigned to the program. The MSDS binder should be readily available for reference by staff during training and emergencies.

In several of the housing units at the Fairview Developmental Center, decorative items were placed on high shelves. Some of the items were not secured and may present a safety hazard during cleaning or a seismic event. Decorative planters were noted hanging over the head of the client beds in some of the units. It is recommended that the contract janitorial staff check the stability and security of the decorative items on the shelves on a frequent basis during their routine cleaning operations. As a safety measure all hanging objects should be located away from the beds.

In some of the residence tub rooms at the Fairview Developmental Center the client's toothbrushes were being stored in open trays. Personal grooming items should be stored in clean, closed containers, with the client's name placed on each container.

Several of the dryer exhaust vents on the residences at the Sonoma Developmental Center were covered with significant volumes of lint. The accumulated material can be a fire hazard and reduces dryer efficiency. Exterior vents should be routinely inspected and cleaned to ensure proper operation of the exhaust system.

Deficiencies in the client bathrooms at the Agnews Developmental Center include rusting metal fixtures and doorframes, water-damaged walls and flooring; water damaged counter tops and cabinets, non-functioning or missing equipment, inadequate ventilation and odors. The planned remodel of the bathrooms should improve the level of function and sanitation in the bathrooms. Wall protection is needed to protect the toilet stall doors from damaging the tile work on the walls.

MISCELLANEOUS AREAS

A natural gas hot water heater was installed on the floor in the Groundskeeping Shop at the Lanterman Developmental Center. The same room is used to store and fill gasoline-powered lawnmowers. The water heater installation represents a significant flash fire safety hazard. The Uniform Plumbing and Fire Codes specify that natural gas hot water heaters be installed at least 18 inches above floor level to minimize the potential for flash fires that could occur if gasoline vapors were to ignite. The hot water heater should be disconnected and should be reinstalled in accordance with the applicable codes.

We observed that gasoline containers were being stored inside the Groundskeeping Shop at the Lanterman Developmental Center. As a safety measure a State Fire Marshal approved flammable materials cabinet for indoor gasoline storage should be provided.

Cleaning products were being stored under the sink in the kitchen in the "Here We Grow Learning Center" at the Lanterman Developmental Center. As a safety measure all cleaning products and other chemicals should be stored out of the reach of children.

The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) binders were either missing or incomplete in some of the plant operations shops at the Fairview Developmental Center, Lanterman Developmental Center and Sonoma Developmental Center. The missing MSDSs should be replaced and the binders should be reviewed periodically to verify that an MSDS for each chemical in the current inventory is included in the binder. To facilitate access to MSDS information during training and emergencies, it is recommended that the MSDS binders be provided with an indexing and tabbing system. It is also recommended that critical information such as product name, personal protection equipment and first aid procedures be highlighted for quick reference in the event of an emergency.

Approved, properly installed exhaust ventilation to the outside air should be provided in the welding shops at the Agnews Developmental Center and Fairview Developmental Center. The ventilation systems should allow for the efficient removal of any noxious gases, fumes and airborne particulate matter generated during welding operations and should be installed and operated in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Sections 5143 and 5144.

A written procedure should be developed to ensure that all clippers, scissors and other sharp tools are cleaned and disinfected properly after use on each customer at the Fairview Developmental Center and Porterville Developmental Center. The tools should be cleaned with soap and water and treated with an EPA registered disinfectant with demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal and virucidal activity. A container of sufficient size to completely submerge the barber tools should be provided and the manufacturer's instructions for contact time should be strictly followed. For most of the approved disinfectants, the contact time is at least ten (10) minutes.

Several sacks of chicken mash and other animal feeds were stacked and left open in the barn at Rustic Camp at the Lanterman Developmental Center. The accessible feed is an attractant to vermin such as rats, opossums, and squirrels. To resolve this problem, rigid containers with tight fitting covers should be provided for the sacks of grain and other animal feed.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Our staff of Registered Environmental Health Specialists will continue to perform surveys during the year to identify environmental health and safety issues and will work with the Department of Developmental Services to develop corrective and preventive measures. We believe that significant progress has been made to improve the environmental health and safety conditions at the Developmental Centers over the past several years. Management and staff should be commended for their outstanding efforts. The cooperative efforts of the Developmental Center Administrators and staff have led to the success of the program.

Significant improvement has been made in the Injury and Illness Prevention Program, Hazard Communication/Right to Know program, Medical Waste Management program, Cross Connection Control program, Toxic Substances and Hazardous Waste Management programs, Recycling programs, Hazardous Analysis and Critical Control Point programs and Bloodborne Pathogen programs. Training in the Material Safety Data Sheet and Hazard Communication/Right to Know, the Bloodborne Pathogen Policy, and the Confined Space Policy should continue at all of the Developmental Centers. The training should give special emphasis to chemical reactivity and incompatibility, emergency response, the use of personal protective equipment, and limiting or preventing exposures to chemicals or blood. The training should be recorded and documented. The supervisory staff should make sure that staff use the required personal protective equipment and procedures.

We will continue to assist the individual Developmental Centers with the on-going evolution and maintenance of these environmental health and safety programs by providing consultation, plan review, training and assistance with special projects. The environmental health survey process will "test" the systems in place and will provide feedback to the Developmental Center Administrators and the Department of Developmental Services. This year we will be offering “Tailgate Training Sessions” as part of our surveys. These sessions are designed to respond to questions and provide subject matter instruction to the staff.